BURY, LANCASHIRE.—A church has just been commenced at ?Holcombe, near Bury, Lancashire, from the designs of Mr. T. Holmes, architect, of Bury, to contain about 500 sittings. It is in the Early Decorated style, and consists of a nave, 60 feet by 21 feet 6 inches; north aisle, 40 feet by 12 feet 3 inches; south ditto, 60 feet 4 inches by 12 feet 3 inches; transept on north side, 25 feet by 19 feet 3 inches; chancel, 23 feet 9 inches by 15 feet, and north vestry, 14 feet by 12 feet; western tower, 11 feet 6 inches inside; the entire cost to be about 2,250*l*. The situation is one of the most romantic and imposing in Lancashire. The present contract does not include a spire; but it is intended to erect one at a future time. The height of the tower is about 70 feet: the spire will be about the same. Mr. Haworth, of Helmshore, is the mason, and Mr. John Wild, of Ramsbottom, does the remainder of the work.—The same architect has just commenced a parsonage, to be built in connection with St. Paul's Church, Bury, in the Perpendicular style of architecture. The entire cost will be about 1,050*l*. The Earl of Derby has shown his good wishes towards the neighbourhood by granting 2½ acres of ground for the above. The contractors are Messrs. J. and T. Crossleys, of Bury.

BOILER EXPLOSIONS.—The manner in which many of these explosions occur is thus described by the *North British Mail*:—"We had occasion to visit an extensive work last week, where a number of steam-boilers were at work, one of them high-pressure, which had been recently fitted with an apparatus, which, actuated by a float inside the boiler, indicated when the water was too high or too low, by blowing an alarum whistle. Whether the tenter in charge did not like to have the whistle always indicating his inattention, or whether it was by accident, at all events, the float was removed, and the wheel at top being fixed by a nail, the apparatus was inoperative, and worse than useless, because it led to a misplaced confidence in a very excellent contrivance." A diagram has been exhibited in the Exchange, says the *Manchester Spectator*, of an absolute safety-valve, which has been registered by Mr. James Nasmyth, of the Bridgewater Foundry. Its construction, although simple, is very ingenious, and the objections to the valves now in use are effectually removed. It is free from all external or internal spindles and contrivances intended to act as guide rods, which often corrode, and render the valve no indicator of the variations of pressure. It has no external lever or weight, therefore cannot be tampered with by being overloaded; but, as the inventor states on the diagram, "the chief feature of novelty in this safety-valve consists in the manner in which the swaying backward and forward motion of the water in the boiler is employed to keep the valve free, and so remove all tendency to become fast in its seat, whether from mud or any other cause. The valve and seat being portions of a sphere, they fit in all positions." The adoption of some such valve as this must be a great means of safety; but it will not obviate the very serious, because very common danger, arising from the employment of men as engineers so ignorant as to believe that boilers "can stand any amount of pressure," or so reckless as to tie down or fix their valves, and to leave them while they are off drinking or otherwise neglecting their work.

THE BRITISH LION AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE.—Having read with some interest the remarks which you have made from time to time on the works at Buckingham Palace, I availed myself of the fine weather on Saturday to inspect what are called the recent improvements. It would occupy too much of your valuable space and my time to attempt a critique on the whole affair, but there are on the two side piers of the entrance such a libel on the supporters of the royal arms, as well as on the artistic talent of the country, that I cannot refrain from again calling attention to the matter, in the hope that some means might be devised to remove those caricatures of the lion and unicorn which have been placed on the top of the piers: not only is the good taste of every mind capable of forming the slightest opinion as to how the thing should have been executed, done violence to, in the deformities committed on the animals themselves, but every vulgar mind will ridicule and laugh at their indecency, and every feeling mind be moved to pity from their tortuous position: should the beast loose his grasp of the shield for a moment's rest, there is no alternative but an ignominious fall. Do pray, Mr. Editor, use your pen to effect the removal of these monstrosities before the world shall assemble in town to witness and ridicule our royal sculptures.—A LOOKER ON.

COUNTRY AND LAMBETH DRAINAGE PIPES.—As the contractors for the supply of the pipes for the drainage of the town of Rugby, we will thank you to insert the following remarks, in reply to a letter in your last week's number, signed "Thomas Smith." Mr. Smith insinuates that the pipes made at our country establishment, and which are intended to be supplied at Rugby, are of inferior quality to those made at Lambeth. The only pipes manufactured by us are of glazed stoneware, and those made at our country works are quite equal in quality, and by many are considered superior, to those made by us, or any other parties, at Lambeth. It so happens, that the test recommended by Mr. Smith, that the pipes should be broken and the body scrutinised, was applied in the Rugby case with unusual strictness, and we are authorised by the engineer to state that, judged by this test, the pipes selected by him, and which were of our country manufacture, were *at least fully equal* to any sample of Lambeth pipes submitted, and we think that Mr. Smith will fail to convince your readers that the quality of an article is always to be determined by the locality where it is manufactured.—HENRY DOULTON AND CO.*

ESCAPE FROM FIRE.—The Royal Society for the Protection of Life from Fire, merits support. Besides the more personal advantage of supporting the fire-escape station of the district, subscriptions and donations ought to flow into it on the grounds of humanity generally. It is the only national means for rewarding brave exertions in saving life from fire, and expends, it appears, a considerable amount annually in cases deserving such public testimony throughout the kingdom. In its sphere of usefulness generally it depends on voluntary support. During the past year, by the exertions of the society's men, the lives of thirty-six persons were rescued from houses on fire in London; and the gradual decrease of fatal fires during the few years the society has been in active operation is said to be matter of general acknowledgment. Additional good might be effected by augmenting the number of its fire-escape stations, but that of course depends on the exertions of the public in its favour, not on those of the society, who are anxious to have fire-escapes over the whole of London.

THE LIVERPOOL JOINERS' PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the members and friends of this association was held on Wednesday in last week, at the rooms in Back Bold-street. Amongst those on the platform were Mr. Councillor Picton, Mr. H. T. Atkinson, and Mr. Myers. The chair was occupied by Mr. Robinson. There were a good number of operative joiners present. Mr. Chuck moved the first resolution, which was to the effect that, having had one year's experience of the benefits arising from the association, both morally and intellectually, the meeting pledged itself, individually and collectively, to extend its influence as far as possible, in order that their fellow workmen may all unite in one compact and public association. Mr. Picton seconded the resolution, and referred to the present state of the association. It appeared that, during the year, the members had increased from thirty members to three hundred. Their financial position was also exceedingly favourable: they had not only paid all expenses, but there was an encouraging balance in hand. They had also the room in which they were then met, which was fitted up as a reading and assembly-room. A drawing school had been established for the younger members of their trade, and they had a small library of books presented by the late Mr. Edward Rushton. This and other appropriate resolutions were unanimously passed.

HOUSE TAX ON WORKMEN'S DWELLINGS.—The declared object of Sir Charles Wood is to procure cheap and wholesome dwellings for the working classes. It is to be hoped, therefore, that he will well consider the effect of his proposed house tax on compound dwellings, such as not only those named model lodging-houses, but others anything but a model in construction, as well as those of a medium order, which exist in great numbers in such towns as Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, or Birkenhead, &c. Mr. William Laird, who, along with others, built a number of these, of an improved description, at Birkenhead, as dwellings for the working classes, draws attention to this subject in the *Times*, and suggests that such *houses*, being in fact made up of separate and distinct dwellings, should be exempt, unless where each separate dwelling is of greater annual value than 20*l*. If not exempted, this tax will assuredly constitute just such a hindrance to the improvement of dwellings for the working classes as the window-tax itself has been; for it is by the erection of such houses alone that these dwellings in towns such as London can ever be improved.

NEW INDEPENDENT CHAPEL, GLOUCESTER.—The style of the building is decorated. The foundation stone was laid on the 17th of May, 1850. The chapel is 74 feet in length, 51 feet in width, and 56 feet high from the ground floor to the ridge of the centre roof, and will accommodate about 1,000 adults. It is divided into three aisles. The centre compartment is carried up higher than the other parts, with clerestory windows over the arches, and at each end of the building is a five-light window, 26 feet high, and 12 feet wide: the heads are filled with tracery of different designs. The window at the further end of the chapel is enriched with stained glass, by Rogers, of Worcester. To prevent any obstruction of light from the window over the principal entrance the organ has been divided into two parts, one on each side of the window, the pipes being connected with cranks and levers underneath the floor, and the keys placed at one of the compartments. The organ was built by Nicholson, of Worcester. There are two side galleries, supported by moulded corbels from the columns. The external walls are built of Bath stone. The stone carving has been executed by Frith, of Birmingham. The arrangements of the public and private vestries, behind the chapel, are very complete. The works have been executed by Mr. Wingate, builder, under the direction of Mr. Medland, architect.

KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL COMPETITION.—The council of King's College Hospital desiring plans for a new building, invited a competition from a limited number of architects (five), under conditions different from those usually prescribed. The designs have been sent in, and we shall next week refer to them. The council were assisted in their arrangements by Professor Hosking.

EXTRAORDINARY FEAT.—Mr. James Duncan Wright, otherwise called "Steeple Jack," has been engaged at the Bristol Alkali Works for a few days, making arrangements for repairing the tall chimney outside without stopping the works a moment. At twenty minutes past two on Thursday, seeing that the wind would suit him, he flew his kite, and by twenty-five minutes past three he had a chain over the top, with proper tackle attached for ascending. In another half-hour he took his seat on a bit of board, 18 by 9 inches, and 1 inch thick, and went to the top (200 feet) in half a minute! In three minutes he had placed the chain in a secure position, exactly across the top (which is was not before), and in another half-minute was shaking hands with his friends below. This is only one of the many feats for which "Steeple Jack" is celebrated.—*Bristol Gazette*.

* We have received other letters on the subject, but are unable to give them insertion. Of our own knowledge, we can state that some of the country-made pipes are very bad.—ED.

For a comprehensive guide on OCR and PDF Compression go to our website